

Scoring a Script



Rationale: Scoring a script means to mark it up in order to make specific choices about the dramatic choices you are going to make when you are performing a character. Actors score their scripts because it forces you to slow down your brain, think about making deliberate choices and not “just talk.”

RULE #1 in Acting: As a character, you ALWAYS WANT SOMETHING FROM SOMEONE. You are never just saying things for the heck of it. Words are your weapons to achieve what you want.

Terms to Know:

Beat	Every time you pause, shift what you are feeling or thinking about, have a realization or try an new tactic, that is a new beat.
Super-Objective	What your character wants deep-down more than anything else in the world. This is the thing that drives most of the character’s decisions. It is a primal (basic, animal) need. This never changes. Examples: Your father’s love. Your child’s safety. Security. A legacy that will live on after you die. Revenge. Security. To be safe. To be free. For your mother to finally approve of you.
Objective	What your character wants to get FROM ANOTHER PERSON in a particular scene or monologue. You may not always achieve your objective, but you definitely want it badly. At times the objective can change midway through the scene. Examples: To get my wife to stay with me. To convince the boss to hire me. To persuade my son to give me another chance. To trick my friend into going to the surprise party. To make my mom get out of my business. To make my boyfriend tell me the truth .
Tactic	What you DO to get the other person to give you what you want. With every beat, your tactics change. If one thing doesn’t work, you try something else. Tactics must always be ACTION VERBS (persuade, intimidate, coax) that you do to the other person with your words. They should never be adjectives (angry, sad, excited)

Your Assignment:

1. Open a new document . Paste your current version of your monologue. Make sure it is double-spaced. Larger font is also a good idea.
2. At the top (under your heading and such), write your objective.
3. Put a slash mark / each time there is a new beat.
4. Write a tactic over each beat. Remember it needs to be an action verb. And remember it must be something you are doing TO the other person.
5. Print out 2 copies of your revised scored script, one for me and one for you.
6. This will be a paper grade.

Example

Objective: My objective in this monologue is to get Troy to recognize that he needs to recommit to our relationship.

Command his attention
I been standing with you! I been right here with you, Troy. / I got a life too. I gave
Make him see me
Appeal to his sympathy
eighteen years of my life to stand in the same spot with you. / Don't you think I ever
Make him jealous
wanted other things? Don't you think I had dreams and hopes? / Don't you think it ever
crossed my mind to want to know other men? That I wanted to lay up somewhere and
forget about my responsibilities? That I wanted someone to make me laugh so I could feel
Force him to see his selfishness
good? / You not the only one who's got wants and needs. / But I held on to you, Troy. I took
Make him recognize my sacrifice
Touch his heart
all my feelings, my wants and needs, my dreams...and I buried them inside you. / I planted a
Belittle him
seed and watched and prayed over it. / And it didn't take me no eighteen years to find out
the soil was hard and rocky and it wasn't never gonna bloom.

Some Possible Action Verbs to use as tactics (there are many more to choose from)

Reason with	Threaten	Trick	Hurt
Persuade	Intimidate	Lie to	Sooth
Convince	Guilt-trip	Belittle	Command
Coax	Bribe	Reject	Befriend
Caress	Flatter	Shut out	Ignore
Beg	Appeal to	Infantalize	Charm
Suck up to	Seduce	Attack	Include
Share with	Get ___'s attention	Provoke	Exclude
Bully	Educate	Antagonize	Show
Confront	Explain	Force	Reveal to
Get ___'s help	Touch	Get ___ on my side	Scare